AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-41. (canceled)

42. (currently amended) A controller for enabling a plurality of audio files to be played on a computer subsystem of a computer system if ~~when~~ said computer system is in an inactive state, ~~wherein said controller is included in said computer system,~~ said controller comprising:

a switch having a first state and a second state, wherein said switch in said first state ~~decoupling~~ decouples said controller from said computer subsystem and from an audio integrated circuit (IC) coupled to said computer subsystem, and wherein said switch in said second state ~~coupling~~ couples said controller to said computer subsystem in response to said computer system being in said inactive state; and

a drive interface configured to interface with a drive of said computer subsystem depending on a state of said switch, wherein said drive interface is configured to access audio data on said drive if ~~when~~ said switch is in said second state, ~~said drive interface being capable of selectively accessing said audio files from said drive~~.

43. (currently amended) The controller of claim 42, wherein said audio data comprises compressed audio data, and wherein said controller further comprises decoder circuitry configured to receive said compressed audio data and to output decompressed audio data.

44. (currently amended) The controller of claim 43, wherein said decoder circuitry ~~further~~ comprises a buffer memory for <u>temporarily storing</u> ~~temporary storage of~~ said decompressed audio data.

45. (original) The controller of claim 44, wherein said buffer memory comprises a first-in-first-out (FIFO) memory.

46. (currently amended) The controller of claim 43, wherein said decoder circuitry ~~further~~ comprises a digital to analog circuit <u>for receiving</u> ~~to receive~~ said decompressed audio data and <u>for generating</u> ~~to generate~~ an analog audio signal.

47. (currently amended) The controller of claim 43, wherein said decoder circuitry ~~further~~ comprises an interface circuit <u>for receiving</u> ~~to interface~~ said decompressed audio data <u>and for communicating</u> with an external digital to analog converter.

48. (currently amended) The controller of claim 42, further comprising<u>:</u>

a ~~an~~ <u>liquid crystal display (LCD)</u> interface <u>for generating</u> ~~to generate~~ <u>at least one signal</u> ~~signals~~ to an LCD display<u>,</u>

<u>wherein said LCD display displays</u> ~~for displaying~~ directory data associated with said drive.

49. (currently amended) The controller of claim 42, further comprising<u>:</u>

a function key interface responsive to a plurality of function keys,

<u>wherein</u> said <u>plurality of</u> function keys <u>generates</u> ~~generating~~ a plurality of user commands to said controller through said function key interface.

50. (currently amended) The controller of claim 42, further comprising:

a processor for controlling said state of said switch.

51. (currently amended) The controller of claim 43, further comprising:

a processor for controlling said state of said switch and for controlling said decoder circuitry.

52. (currently amended) The controller of claim 51, further comprising:

a flash memory for storing data and a plurality of commands,

wherein said data and said plurality of commands are used for use by said processor for controlling said decoder circuitry.

53. (original) The controller of claim 42, wherein said audio data comprises non-compressed audio data.

54. (currently amended) A controller for enabling a plurality of audio files to be played on a computer subsystem of a computer system if when said computer system is in an inactive state, wherein said controller is included in said computer system, said controller comprising:

a switch having a first state and a second state, wherein said switch in said first state decouples decoupling said controller from said computer subsystem and from an audio IC coupled to said computer subsystem, and wherein said switch in said second stage couples coupling said controller to said computer subsystem in response to said computer system being in said inactive state;

a drive interface configured to interface with a drive of said computer subsystem depending on a state of said switch, <u>wherein</u> said drive interface <u>is</u> configured to access compressed audio data on said drive <u>if</u> ~~when~~ said switch is in said second state~~, said drive interface being capable of selectively accessing said audio files from said drive~~; and

decoder circuitry configured to receive said compressed audio data and output decompressed audio data.

55. (currently amended) The controller of claim 54, wherein said decoder circuitry ~~further~~ comprises a buffer memory for <u>temporarily storing</u> ~~temporary storage of~~ said decompressed audio data.

56. (original) The controller of claim 55, wherein said buffer memory comprises a first-in-first-out (FIFO) memory.

57. (currently amended) The controller of claim 54, wherein said decoder circuitry ~~further~~ comprises a digital to analog circuit <u>for receiving</u> ~~to receive~~ said decompressed audio data and <u>for generating</u> ~~to generate~~ an analog audio signal.

58. (currently amended) The controller of claim 54, wherein said decoder circuitry ~~further~~ comprises an interface circuit <u>for receiving</u> ~~to interface~~ said decompressed audio data <u>and for communicating</u> with an external digital to analog converter.

59. (currently amended) A method ~~of~~ for playing a plurality of audio files in a computer system ~~having~~ comprising a computer subsystem, said method comprising:

decoupling an audio controller from said computer subsystem and from an audio IC coupled to said computer subsystem if said computer system is in an active state; and

~~detecting when said computer system is in an inactive state; and~~

coupling an audio controller to said computer subsystem if ~~when~~ said computer system is in an ~~said~~ inactive state,

wherein said audio controller is configured to control access and playing of said plurality of audio files on said computer subsystem, and wherein ~~said computer system comprises said audio controller and~~ said audio controller comprises a switch and a drive interface ~~for selectively accessing said audio files~~.

60. (currently amended) The method of claim 59, further comprising:

detecting if ~~when~~ said computer system is in said ~~an~~ active state; and

detecting if said computer system is in said inactive state

~~decoupling said audio controller from said computer subsystem when said computer is in said inactive state~~.